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## Portugal

## Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards

## Country Report

## 2004

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U.S. Embassy

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**Report Highlights:**

This report describes Portuguese application of the EU-harmonized legislation regarding imports of food products into Portugal. This report will only focus on Portuguese legislation when it differs from the EU-harmonized legislation. For the EU-harmonized legislation please refer to the EU FAIRS report, E34054.

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Annual Report  
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[PO]

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**DISCLAIMER:** This report has been prepared by the Office of Agricultural Affairs of the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service in Lisbon, Portugal for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. While every possible care has been taken in the preparation of this report, information provided may be no longer complete nor precise as some import requirements are subject to frequent change. It is highly recommended that U.S. exporters ensure that all necessary customs clearance requirements have been verified with local authorities through your foreign importer before the sale conditions are finalized. **FINAL IMPORT APPROVAL OF ANY PRODUCT IS ALWAYS SUBJECT TO THE RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY THE COUNTRY OF IMPORT AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.**

## SECTION I. FOOD LAWS

Imports of food and beverage products into Portugal are not subject to special legislation other than that of the European Union. Portugal, as a EU member state, follows all rules and regulations that govern food legislation within the European Union. National legislation is also applied when there is no EU-harmonized legislation to be applied.

## SECTION II. LABELING REQUIREMENTS

EU-harmonized legislation is applied to:

- General Labeling Requirements
- Nutritional Labeling
- Product-Specific Labeling
- GMO's and Novel Foods Labeling

Multi-language labeling is allowed in Portugal. However, Portuguese is required. Stickers are allowed.

For detailed information on the EU-harmonized labeling legislation, please consult the EU-25 FAIRS report, E34054 at <http://www.fas.usda.gov/scripts/gd.asp?ID=146107373> as well as the website <http://www.useu.be/agri/label.html>.

## SECTION III. PACKAGING AND CONTAINER REGULATIONS

EU-harmonized legislation on packaging and container regulations is applied.

For detailed information on the EU-harmonized legislation on packaging and container regulations, please consult the EU-25 FAIRS report, E34054 at <http://www.fas.usda.gov/scripts/gd.asp?ID=146107373> as well as the website [www.useu.be/agri/packaging.html](http://www.useu.be/agri/packaging.html).

## SECTION IV. FOOD ADDITIVE REGULATIONS

EU-harmonized legislation on food additive regulations is applied.

For detailed information on the EU-harmonized legislation on packaging and container regulations, please consult the EU-25 FAIRS report, E34054 at <http://www.fas.usda.gov/scripts/gd.asp?ID=146107373> as well as the website [www.useu.be/agri/additive.html](http://www.useu.be/agri/additive.html).

## SECTION V. PESTICIDE AND CONTAMINANTS

EU-harmonized legislation on pesticide and contaminants is not fully completed yet. The complete list of maximum residue levels (MRL's) and commodity combinations allowed in the EU can be obtained from the Commission's webpage at [http://europa.eu.int/com/food/fs/ph\\_ps/pest/index\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/com/food/fs/ph_ps/pest/index_en.html). When a pesticide is not listed under the EU harmonized MRL's list, it should be subject to Portuguese legislation.

Therefore, U.S. exporters may obtain information on the maximum residue levels (MRL's) and commodity combinations allowed in Portugal at the Portuguese Ministry of Agriculture webpage, <http://www.dgpc.min-agricultura.pt/fitofarmaceuticos/Residuos/LMR/LMR.htm>

For detailed information on the EU-harmonized legislation on pesticide and contaminant regulations, please consult the EU-25 FAIRS report, E34054 at <http://www.fas.usda.gov/scripts/gd.asp?ID=146107373> as well as the website [www.useu.be/agri/pesticides.html](http://www.useu.be/agri/pesticides.html).

## SECTION VI. OTHER REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

EU-harmonized legislation is applied to other regulations and requirements including product inspection, registration and certification.

For detailed information on the EU-harmonized legislation on other regulations and requirements, please consult the EU-25 FAIRS report, E34054 at <http://www.fas.usda.gov/scripts/gd.asp?ID=146107373>. Also, for detailed information on certification, please consult the following websites:

- Certificates for Plant Products - <http://www.useu.be/agri/plantcertif.html>
- Certificates for Animal Products - <http://www.useu.be/agri/certification.html>
- Certificates for Processed Foods - <http://www.useu.be/agri/foodcertif.html>

## SECTION VII. OTHER SPECIFIC STANDARDS

For detailed information on the EU-harmonized legislation on other specific standards, please consult the EU-25 FAIRS report, E34054 at <http://www.fas.usda.gov/scripts/gd.asp?ID=146107373>. Also, detailed information may also be obtained at the following websites:

- GMO's - <http://www.useu.be/agri/GMOs.html>
- Novel Foods - <http://www.useu.be/agri/novelfood.html>
- Dietetic or Special Use Foods - <http://www.useu.be/agri/partnutr.html>
- Wine, Beer and Other Alcoholic Beverages - <http://www.useu.be/agri/wine.html>
- Organic Foods - <http://www.useu.be/agri/organic.html>
- Vertical Legislation (Breakfast Directives) - <http://www.useu.be/agri/vertic.html>
- Beef Labeling - <http://www.useu.be/agri/label.html>
- Egg Labeling - <http://www.useu.be/agri/label.html>
- Frozen Foods - <http://www.useu.be/agri/frozen.html>
- Irradiated Foods - <http://www.useu.be/agri/irradiation.html>
- Fruits and Vegetables - <http://www.useu.be/agri/Fruit-Veg.html>
- Seafood - <http://www.useu.be/agri/seafood2.html>

## SECTION VIII. COPYRIGHT AND/OR TRADEMARK LAWS

Portugal is a signatory to the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property (WIPO), a party to the Madrid Agreement on International Registration of Trademarks and Prevention of the Use of False Origins. Both the Trademark Law and the Intellectual Property Law address protection for brand names and trademarks.

For detailed information on the EU-harmonized legislation on copyright and/or trademark laws, please consult the EU-25 FAIRS report, E34054 at <http://www.fas.usda.gov/scripts/gd.asp?ID=146107373> as well as [Council Directive 89/104/EEC](#).

## **SECTION IX. IMPORT PROCEDURES**

### **First Step to Enter the Portuguese Market**

Success in introducing your product in the market begins by locating local representation and/or an importer/distributor. The advantages of this contact include market knowledge, up-to-date information and guidance on trade laws and business practices, sales contacts, and market development expertise. The Portuguese importer is the first responsible to the Portuguese Government of imported food products when they enter the Portuguese territory. Therefore, the Portuguese importer should guide you through the whole process to market your product in Portugal.

### **Import Documentation**

The following documents are required for ocean or air cargo shipments of food products to Portugal:

Bill of Lading and/or Airway Bill

Commercial Invoice

Phytosanitary Certificate and/or Health Certificate when applicable

See SECTION VI. Other Regulations and Requirements.

Import Certificate

Most food products require an Import Certificate issued by the competent Portuguese authority. However, the Import Certificate is obtained by the Portuguese importer and/or the agent involved in the business and is intended for tariff classification purposes.

### **Temporary Entry**

Foreign goods may enter the Portuguese territory under temporary duty-free admission. Temporary entry can be allowed for goods in transit, for manufacturing, for temporary storage or for temporary importation. Generally, temporary entry of goods requires the deposit of a guarantee for import duties and VAT which are then reimbursed when the merchandise leaves the territory of the EU. Temporary importation allows the merchandise to stay in the EU territory as foreign merchandise for a period of 24 months.

### **Samples and Advertising Materials**

As an EU country and member of the Convention to Facilitate the Importation of Samples and Advertising Matter, Portugal grants duty free entry to giveaway samples properly labeled. Samples are, however, subject to the same import documentation requirements that apply to ordinary commercial imports and require a symbolic value for customs declaration purposes on the commercial invoice which must carry the statement "Samples Without Commercial Value".

For detailed information on the EU-harmonized legislation on import procedures, please consult the EU-25 FAIRS report, E34054 at <http://www.fas.usda.gov/scripts/gd.asp?ID=146107373>.

**APPENDIX I – MAJOR REGULATORY AGENCIES**

Direcção Geral de Fiscalização e Controlo da Qualidade Alimentar  
(General Directorate for Inspection and Control of Food Quality)

Av. Conde Valbom, 96

1050-070 LISBOA

Tel. 351-217983600

Fax 351-217983654

email: [dgfcqa@dgfcqa.min-agricultura.pt](mailto:dgfcqa@dgfcqa.min-agricultura.pt)

[www.min-agricultura.pt](http://www.min-agricultura.pt)

Direcção Geral de Protecção das Culturas  
(General Directorate for Crop Protection)

Estação Agronómica Nacional

Quinta do Marquês

2780-155 OEIRAS

Tel. 351-214464073

Fax 351-214420616

[www.dgpc.min-agricultura.pt](http://www.dgpc.min-agricultura.pt)

Direcção Geral da Veterinária  
(General Directorate for Veterinary Services)

Lg. Academia Nacional das Belas Artes, 2

1249-105 LISBOA

Tel. 351-213239500

Fax 351-213239694

[www.dgv.min-agricultura.pt](http://www.dgv.min-agricultura.pt)

Direcção Geral da Saúde

(General Directorate for Health)

Alameda D. Afonso Henriques, 45

1000 LISBOA

Tel. 351-218430500

Fax 351-218430530

[www.dgsaude.pt](http://www.dgsaude.pt)

Ministério da Agricultura  
Gabinete de Planeamento e Política  
Agro-Alimentar

Rua Pd. António Vieira, 1

1099-073 LISBOA

Tel. 351-213819300

Fax 351-213873934

<http://www.gppaa.min-agricultura.pt/>

(Ministry of Agriculture)

(Planning and Policy Cabinet for  
Agricultural Food Products)

Direcção Geral da Alfandega  
(Customs General Directorate)

Terreiro do Trigo

1100 Lisboa

Tel. 351-218861059

Fax 351-218883686

[www.dgaiec.min-financas.pt](http://www.dgaiec.min-financas.pt)

Direcção Geral da Alfandega e Dos Impostos Especiais sobre o Consumo  
(Customs and Special Taxation on Consumption General Directorate)  
Direcção de Serviços do Licenciamentos **(Import Certificates)**  
R. Terreiro do Trigo  
Edif. Alfândega  
1149-060 Lisboa  
Tel. 351-218814262  
Fax 351-218814261  
Email: [dsl@dgaiec.min-financas.pt](mailto:dsl@dgaiec.min-financas.pt)  
[www.dgaiec.min-financas.pt](http://www.dgaiec.min-financas.pt)

## APPENDIX II – OTHER IMPORT SPECIALIST CONTACTS

The Office of Agricultural Affairs of the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service in Lisbon, Portugal can also assist/guide you in obtaining specific national legislation on all food product directives. You may contact us at the following address:

Foreign Agricultural Service  
American Embassy, Lisbon  
PSC 83, Box FAS  
APO AE 09726  
Tel. 351-217702358  
Fax: 351-217269721  
email: [aglisbon@usda.gov](mailto:aglisbon@usda.gov)  
<http://www.american-embassy.pt/>

American Embassy, Lisbon  
Av. Das Forças Armadas  
1600-081 LISBON